Spreading of disease in prawn hatchery of Kerala

1666. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials of Marine Product Exporting Development Authority are aware of the disease which spread in the prawn hatchery of Kerala after June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details regarding exact period when it came to notice, the nature and the reasons for spreading the disease, the area affected in each district, the total number of farmers whose hatchery is affected, the steps taken to control the disease and the amount spent therefor till date by MPEDA; and

(c) the total quantity of prawn exported and the foreign exchange received during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) According to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), no disease spread was reported in the prawn hatcheries of Kerala after June 2001. However, they are aware of the outbreak of disease in prawn/shrimp farms of the State during January '02. The disease reportedly appeared in the traditional shrimp farms as isolated incidences during late December 2001. However, wide spread outbreak occurred in the 2nd half of January 2002, due to white spot virus infection which has been causing similar outbreaks in shrimp farms of various maritime States, since 1995. According to MPEDA, one of the main reasons for the outbreak is the failure of the farmers to adopt the basic management measures needed to avoid the infection and spread of the disease. Other responsible factors include water quality, soil condition, plankton blooms, weather conditions etc.

The details of the area affected by the disease are given below. However, no estimate of the number of farmers affected is available.

District	Area affected by disease (Ha.)
Kollam	14.500
Alappuzha	192.600
Ernakulam	6543.790
Thrissur	176.500
Kozhikode	22.850
Kannur	547.760
Kasargod	2.000
TOTAL:	7500.000

The steps taken to control the disease by MPEDA include visit by their technical staff to the affected areas to extend necessary guidance to the fanners, organising several training programmes for them during the current culture season on the management measures to be adopted for prevention and control of diseases etc. MPEDA also extends subsidy assistance to the shrimp hatcheries to establish (i) PCR lab @ Rs. 5 lakh per hatchery to help farmers to stock disease—free seeds after testing; (ii) Effluent Treatment System (ETS) in shrimp farms @ Rs. 1.5 lakh for a unit of 5 ha. water spread area and maximum amount of Rs. 6 lakh per beneficiary.

(c) The State-wise details of prawn exports during the last 3 years are given below:

(Quantity in Tonnes; Value of export in Million US Dollars)

STATE		2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99
Gujarat	Q:	2881	2807	4951
	$:	12.27	11.27	19.34
Maharashtra	Q:	10728	11074	13650
	$:	62.56	58.76	67.54
Karnataka	Q:	213	14	5
	$:	1.07	0.4	0.16
Goa	Q:	36	90	175
	$:	0.25	0.71	0.79
Kerala	Q:	28299	35710	25550
	$:	130.9	163.98	114.99
Tamil Nadu	Q:	39383	29176	29219
	$:	454.63	300.28	291.19
Andhra Pradesh	Q:	18708	19679	19196
	$:	206.07	202.38	206.41
Orissa	Q:	****		•***
	$:			*•••
West Bengal	Q:	11626	11725	9738
	$:	117.25	109.35	99.8
TOTAL:	Q:	111874	110275	102484
	$:	985.00	847.13	800.22

Source: MPEDA